

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 06911 01 OF 02 181855Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 CU-02 /080 W

----- 105655

R 181848Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7648

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, LA

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF LAO SITUATION

REFS: (A) VIENTIANE 1513; (B) STATE 052375; (C)  
VIENTIANE 1741

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE QUAI BASICALLY AGREES WITH EMBASSY  
VIENTIANE'S GENERAL VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN LAOS TWO  
YEARS AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE 1973 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.  
FRENCH THINK THE SITUATION IS SATISFACTORY, BUT FRAGILE.  
SUBJECTS QUAI EMPHASIZED WERE: KEY ROLE OF SOUVANNA,  
UNIFYING FORCE OF THE KING, FAVORABLE INFLUENCE OF "BIG  
POWERS", NEIGHBORS' SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT; IMPORTANT  
CHALLENGE TO LAO NON-COMMUNISTS; AND THE UNPREDICTABLE  
EVOLUTION OF THE LPF UNDER THE NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. THE  
GOF WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SOUVANNA AND AN EVOLUTION  
IN LAOS WHICH  
PERMITS THE NON-COMMUNISTS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY AN  
IMPORTANT ROLE IN A COALITION. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF DREW ON REF A IN DISCUSSION WITH QUAI DEPUTY  
DIRECTOR FOR ASIA BOLLE OF SITUATION IN LAOS TWO YEARS  
AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. BOLLE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 06911 01 OF 02 181855Z

WAS VERY INTERESTED IN U.S. VIEWS AND SAID THAT THE

FRENCH VIEW WAS VERY SIMILAR, SO MUCH SO THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO COMMENT ON DETAILS. OVERALL FRENCH VIEW IS THAT SITUATION IS DEVELOPING SATISFACTORILY, BUT THAT IT REMAINS FRAGILE. BOTH SIDES SEEM READY FOR GRADUAL EVOLUTION, AND GENERAL STATEMENTS ABOUT ULTIMATE GOALS SEEM ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES ALTHOUGH THE DEFINITIONS IN PRACTICE OF THE PRINCIPLES WILL NO DOUBT CAUSE FRICTION. HOWEVER, THE SITUATION MUST BE CONSIDERED FRAGILE BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS, PARTICULARLY SOUVANNA. THE LAO BODY POLITIC WELL WITHSTOOD SOUVANNA'S ILLNESS PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PERIOD OF SHOCK LASTED UNTIL IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT SOUVANNA WOULD REMAIN SO THAT THINGS COULD BE DONE IN HIS NAME. THE DEFINITE DEPARTURE OF SOUVANNA PREMATURELY COULD SHAKE THE STRUCTURE.

2. THE FRENCH ALSO THOUGHT THAT THE ROLE OF THE KING WAS A STABILIZING FACTOR. THEY WERE THEREFORE ENCOURAGED BY THE MORE ACTIVE ROLE WHICH THE KING HAD DECIDED TO PLAY IN VISITING THE LPF ZONE AND IN PROCEEDING WITH HIS CORONATION (REF C). THE CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE KING IN LPF DOCUMENTS WAS A VERY ENCOURAGING SIGN, SINCE ONE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE EXTREMISTS IN THE LPF WOULD BE MORE COOL ABOUT THE MONARCHY AND WOULD STIMULATE TALK ABOUT A "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC."

3. FRENCH AGREE THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF MAJOR POWERS ON THE SCENE AND OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL NEIGHBORS (EVEN NORTH VIETNAM) WISHED TO SEE THE LAO EXPERIMENT WORK. THEY THINK THAT THIS SITUATION MAY CONTINUE, BUT DRAMATIC CHANGES IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM COULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 06911 02 OF 02 181855Z

43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 CU-02 /080 W

----- 105696

R 181848Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7649  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 06911

HAVE REPERCUSSIONS IN LAOS DIRECTLY OR AS THE RESULT OF  
REACTIONS IN THAILAND.

4. FRENCH THINK THAT LAO NON-COMMUNISTS, MILITARY AS  
WELL AS CIVILIAN, HAVE TO DATE NOT RESPONDED WELL TO  
THE CHALLENGE OF THE COMMUNISTS. FRENCH SEE SIGNS,  
HOWEVER, THAT THE DANGERS OF PERMITTING DISORDER AND  
CORRUPTION TO CONTINUE ARE BEGINNING TO PENETRATE THE  
CONSCIOUSNESS OF SOME OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIANS.  
THEY ALSO THINK THAT SOME OF THE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE LPF  
OF THE YOUNG STUDENTS MAY WANE AS THE "COMMUNIST  
ORTHODOXY" RATHER THAN THE FRONT ASPECT OF THE MOVEMENT  
BECOMES CLEARER. FRENCH THINK THAT SUCH A NATIONALIST  
AWAKENING WILL BE A GOOD THING, BUT THERE ARE RISKS OF  
CLASHES WITH LPF.

5. FRENCH THINK THAT THE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE LPF IS  
ALSO OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. THERE ARE NOW NEW INFLUENCES  
ON THE LPF. FRENCH DO NOT KNOW DETAILS OF PRC OR SOVIET  
INFLUENCE ON LAO COMMUNIST PARTY, BUT THINK THAT NEW,  
MORE OPEN CLIMATE AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL  
POWER WILL SPEED THE EVOLUTION OF THE LPF LEADERSHIP  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 06911 02 OF 02 181855Z

IN WAYS NOT NOW PREDICTABLE.

6. BOLLE SAID THAT THE GOF CONTINUED ITS STRONG SUPPORT  
FOR SOUVANNA AND CONTINUED TO THINK THAT DESPITE HIS  
DEFICIENCIES -- SOME NOW CAUSED BY AGE AND REDUCED  
ENERGY -- HE WAS AN IMPORTANT FAVORABLE FACTOR IN THE  
LAO EQUATION. GOF WOULD CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE LAO  
NATIONALISTS ON THE "VIENTIANE SIDE" FOR WHOM THE  
COMMUNIST CHALLENGE SHOULD INCREASINGLY ELLICIT AN  
AFFECTIVE RESPONSE. BOLLE THOUGHT THAT U.S. AND FRANCE  
WOULD CONTINUE TO SEE PRETTY MUCH EYE TO EYE ON THE  
REALITIES OF THE LAO SITUATION AND ON WHAT OUR TWO  
COUNTRIES SHOULD DO TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.  
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** buchandr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS06911  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750094-0530  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750340/aaaabkaa.tel  
**Line Count:** 168  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 VIENTIANE 1513, 75 STATE 052375  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchandr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchandr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH VIEW OF LAO SITUATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, LA, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006